



**Fw: Regarding the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Management issue :**

**Cytasha Campa** to: Debbie Arnold, cr\_board\_clerk Clerk  
Recorder, BOS\_Legislative Assistants Only

08/26/2013 11:56 AM

Kindest regards,

## Cytasha Campa

Board Secretary

Board of Supervisors

San Luis Obispo County

805-781-4335

----- Forwarded by Cytasha Campa/BOS/COSLO on 08/26/2013 11:56 AM -----

From: claude demers <investmentpaso@sbcglobal.net>  
To: "fmecham@co.slo.ca.us" <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>, "ahill@co.slo.ca.us" <ahill@co.slo.ca.us>, "bgibson@co.slo.ca.us" <bgibson@co.slo.ca.us>, "ccampa@co.slo.ca.us" <ccampa@co.slo.ca.us>  
Cc: "BoardofSups@co.slo.ca.us" <BoardofSups@co.slo.ca.us>  
Date: 08/26/2013 11:52 AM  
Subject: Re: Regarding the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Management issue:

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As an after thought: Instead of metering water wells to validate their usage, why doesn't the board request the PGE bills from the large vineyards and with a few calculations, the quantity of water being extracted from the basin can be easily allocated. This will certainly confirm the fact the vineyards are the majority users of the basin.

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**From:** claude demers <investmentpaso@sbcglobal.net>  
**To:** "fmecham@co.slo.ca.us" <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>; "ahill@co.slo.ca.us" <ahill@co.slo.ca.us>; "bgibson@co.slo.ca.us" <bgibson@co.slo.ca.us>; "ccampa@co.slo.ca.us" <ccampa@co.slo.ca.us>  
**Cc:** "BoardofSups@co.slo.ca.us" <BoardofSups@co.slo.ca.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 23, 2013 12:44 PM  
**Subject:** Regarding the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Management issue:

People:

Let us not fool ourselves regarding the main users of the ground water. For anyone to say the agricultural industries are not pumping any more water than it did in the 1970's is LUDICROUS and an out right foolish statement that can only be stated by foolish individuals. As was stated by one of your board members: There is enough blame to share but that statement does not and should not exclude the main users of the water basin.

I was a real estate developer & builder for many, many years and the furthest from my mind is to curtail or suspend that type of activity; however, when natural resources are being seriously impacted, action has to be taken. The board should at least and retroactively, deny "any" new building permits, well applications and any other type of activity which relies on the water basin. This action should be put in place immediately

and remain until such time as the water basin is restored to an acceptable level. What is that level you may ask? Well, God only knows and He's not talking. There are enough monitored areas which could be used as a starting point of measurement. We are in a drought condition and if our current weather pattern doesn't improve, our basin may never recover.

In summary: It takes true leadership to make difficult policies decisions and the entire board must in this case act decisively and without any hesitation regarding this matter. I would greatly appreciate your consideration of my recommendations.

Thank you.

Claude J. Demers





**Fw: Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Interim Urgency Ordinance**

**Board of Supervisors** to: BOS\_Legislative Assistants

08/26/2013 12:02 PM

Sent by: **Fran Zohns**

Cc: cr\_board\_clerk Clerk Recorder

----- Forwarded by Fran Zohns/BOS/COSLO on 08/26/2013 12:01 PM -----

From: Mary Mason <mmmason@tcsn.net>  
To: BoardofSuprs@co.slo.ca.us  
Date: 08/26/2013 11:29 AM  
Subject: Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Interim Urgency Ordinance

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Dear Supervisors,

I am a resident of rural Paso Robles and I am writing to urge you to vote to **adopt the urgency ordinance for the entire Paso Robles groundwater basin**. We live in a home that was built in 1949 by a pioneering family in Paso Robles. We have watched the entire area around our home be developed with both homes and grape vineyards in the last 17 years. In the last week alone three replacement wells have been drilled in our immediate area; one next door to us.

I can see no reason when there is a problem, such as the declining water level of the aquifer, to not take a "time-out" and look for solutions that will protect the long term viability of the groundwater basin. To ignore this or ask for more study while we continue to add new and deeper wells would be foolish.

Again, please to **vote to adopt the urgency ordinance for the entire Paso Robles groundwater basin**. Your neighbors are depending on you to protect the interests of all the residents of the North County.

Please include this letter in the record for the Board of Supervisors meeting on August 27, 2013

Thank you for your service to our county and it's residents.

Sincerely,

Mary Mason

Paso Robles, CA

Read more here:

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2013/08/26/2650907/urgency-ordinance-for-entire-paso.html#storylink=cpy>

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A rare bit of unanimity from council

## Editorial

# Urgency ordinance for entire Paso basin needed

Published: August 26, 2013 Updated 11 hours ago



Dryland farming and ranching have given way to vineyards like this area off of Linne Road just outside Paso Robles.

DAVID MIDDLECAMP — [dmiddlecamp@thetribunenews.com](mailto:dmiddlecamp@thetribunenews.com) [Buy Photo](#)

Supervisors should reject partial groundwater measures

By The Tribune — [letters@thetribunenews.com](mailto:letters@thetribunenews.com)

On Tuesday, the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors has an opportunity to prevent further decline of the Paso Robles groundwater basin by adopting temporary land use restrictions.

The board is looking at two options: Restrict growth throughout much of the basin, or apply the ordinance to a limited area east of Paso Robles, where the biggest aquifer declines have occurred.

We strongly urge board members to put ideological differences aside and act to protect the entire basin by adopting the more comprehensive ordinance.

Agenda Item No: 13 • Meeting Date: August 27, 2013  
Presented By: Mary Mason  
Rec'd prior to the meeting & posted on: August 26, 2013

There is really no excuse for partial measures, because as recent data have shown, aquifer levels throughout the basin have dropped even more than previously documented.

Last week, the county Department of Public Works [released a new map of groundwater elevations](#) that shows that most of the basin has suffered declines of at least 70 feet since 1997.

And on the front page of Sunday's Tribune, [a map](#) shows that a substantial increase in new wells over the past five years has coincided with a drop in aquifer levels.

To allow further unfettered pumping of groundwater is so incredibly risky that we cannot imagine any responsible elected official allowing that to happen.

Indeed, the situation already is so serious that the State Water Resources Control Board [has weighed in](#). It's calling on county supervisors to act to protect the basin, which it describes as "in a state of serious overdraft with water levels continuing to decline."

While no one denies that the situation is serious, so far, supervisors have split 2-2 over what remedial action to take.

During [a discussion](#) at the board's Aug. 6 meeting, North County Supervisor Frank Mecham was reluctant to adopt an ordinance that would cover the entire basin, preferring instead to apply restrictions to the area east of Paso Robles that's been most affected by declining water levels.

Supervisor Debbie Arnold, who also represents North County, wanted to concentrate on helping residents whose wells have dried up, and on increasing the county's allotment of state water.

We agree that it's important to find ways to assist rural residents and small growers. Providing low-interest loans for deeper wells is one such method. But that's a Band-Aid. What will happen when the new wells dry up? Will there be loans on top of loans?

We also believe that seeking out supplemental water — whether it's state water or some other source — is an important component of an overall solution, but that's going to take time. Nipomo, another community dealing with a declining groundwater basin, has been working on finding a new source of water for more than 10 years, and still doesn't have one.

As for those who worry that any restrictions would harm the wine grape industry — and in turn undermine the North County economy — we believe far greater harm could occur down the road if vineyards are allowed to expand by several thousand acres, draining the basin even more.

Keep in mind, too, that the proposed restrictions would not amount to a moratorium. Vineyard expansions and other growth still would be allowed, as long as water used by new development is offset 2-to-1 by water savings elsewhere in the basin.

Also, the land-use restrictions the board will consider Tuesday will be in place temporarily — no longer than two years — while a water management district and other permanent solutions are developed.

As we've said before, the logical solution — the only solution, really — is to give the basin a breather while a more comprehensive water management plan is developed.

We call on the Board of Supervisors to protect one of the county's most critical resources by adopting an urgency ordinance for the entire Paso Robles groundwater basin.

Editorials are the opinion of The Tribune.

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**Fw: BoS hearing August 27, 2013, Item #13, Paso Robles Groundwater Basin**

**Board of Supervisors** to: BOS\_Legislative Assistants

08/26/2013 12:02 PM

Sent by: **Fran Zohns**

Cc: cr\_board\_clerk Clerk Recorder

----- Forwarded by Fran Zohns/BOS/COSLO on 08/26/2013 12:02 PM -----

From: "Sue Luft" <aslufft@wildblue.net>  
To: "Bruce Gibson - Supervisor" <bgibson@co.slo.ca.us>, "Debbie Arnold - Supervisor" <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>, "Frank Mecham - Supervisor" <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>, "Adam Hill - Supervisor" <ahill@co.slo.ca.us>  
Cc: <boardofsups@co.slo.ca.us>  
Date: 08/26/2013 11:38 AM  
Subject: BoS hearing August 27, 2013, Item #13, Paso Robles Groundwater Basin

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Chair Gibson  
Supervisor Arnold  
Supervisor Mecham  
Supervisor Hill

Re: Interim urgency ordinance in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin

Supervisors,

Please find attached comments from PRO Water Equity, Inc. for your consideration.

Thanks,

Sue Luft



President, PRO Water Equity, Inc. Comments re Interim Ordinance - 8-26-13.pdf

# PRO Water Equity, Inc.

*Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Overliers for Water Equity*

www.prowaterequity.org  
info.prowaterequity@gmail.com  
www.facebook.com/ProWaterEquity  
P.O. Box 255, Templeton, CA 93465

August 26, 2013

Chair Bruce Gibson  
Supervisor Debbie Arnold  
Supervisor Frank Mecham  
Supervisor Adam Hill

Via email: [BoardofSups@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:BoardofSups@co.slo.ca.us)

Re: Interim urgency ordinance in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin

Chair Gibson and Supervisors,

PRO Water Equity, Inc. strongly supports the interim urgency ordinance which your Board will consider tomorrow, August 27, 2013. However, we want to express our extreme concern about the proposed broad exemption for pipeline projects.

The suggested ordinance language on page 6 of Attachment 2A of the staff report includes the following exemptions:

2. An Efficiency Improvement.
4. Any application for a land use permit, land division, general plan amendment, ordinance amendment, construction permit, grading permit or well that was submitted to the County, including any required fees, prior to the effective date of this Ordinance.
5. New irrigated crop production where the crop was being planted (even where the entire acreage has not yet been planted but the entire site has been prepared for planting) prior to the effective date of this Ordinance.

## Efficiency Improvement

The definition of efficiency improvement appears to exclude replacement wells, which we strongly support. However, that exemption requires that the existing well be destroyed. This is not acceptable. Many rural residents are drilling a second well in an attempt to supply their homes, knowing that the deeper well will be of poorer quality.

This situation is particularly common in the Almond Drive/El Pomar area where new wells are being drilled into the Monterey Shale since the Paso Robles Formation is no longer accessible. If basin pumping is reduced, the water levels may recover to the point that the original, higher quality water may become available again.

We need the ability to use both wells as long as the total consumption of groundwater at that site does not increase. This can be verified by metering the total flow from both wells. We cannot hurt the rural resident who has been forced to expend large sums of money to obtain a source of water for their home as the groundwater basin has declined beyond their reach.

#### Permit applications

Only applications which have been deemed complete and accepted for processing prior to August 6<sup>th</sup> should be included in the pipeline. If the date of submittal is used, many permit applications that are incomplete and submitted in an attempt to beat the deadline will be considered exempt. The interim urgency ordinance would lose much of its value if all of these applications were allowed to move forward.

#### New irrigated crop production

The interim ordinance must apply to new crop production unless the plants are in the ground as of August 6<sup>th</sup>. This is absolutely necessary. Without this limit, the interim ordinance is not worth adopting.

The language "even where the entire acreage has not yet been planted but the entire site has been prepared for planting" would open up the exemption to a huge amount of acreage. As recently as today, and throughout the past weekend, some operators have been frantically ripping their properties, cutting down almond trees, trenching for piping, installing irrigation, etc. This irresponsible "run on the bank" did not go unnoticed by the local residents.

Even "plants in the ground" will exempt several operations who have been planting throughout the summer, long past the normal planting time of May and June. It is bad enough that these operators rushed to beat the deadline in spite of the overdrafted basin and the impact on their community. However, we don't need to open the pipeline to everyone who runs a tractor through their property ripping the ground.

"Plants in the ground" would also be a much more enforceable criteria than preparing for planting. The plants are visible and do not require staff interpretation. Ripping, when complete, is hard to distinguish from plowing the ground. In some instances, almond trees have been cut down. Would that also be considered "prepared for planting"? What about the installation of deer fencing? Is this "prepared for planting"?

Staff language in Attachment 13 is even more problematic. It states: ". . .sites that have been prepared for planting, but where the planting has not been completed would also not be subject to the Urgency Ordinance. Also, where a property owner can provide evidence that financing or other written contractual commitments were entered into prior to today's date for site preparation, planting, or sale of product, those new or expanded irrigated uses would also not be subject to the Urgency Ordinance. It is difficult to know how many sites have financial or contractual commitments, as these are private transactions. . ."

Financing and contracts can include proposed vineyard management services, contracts for future fruit sales, soil testing, rootstock purchase (which is 18 to 24 months in advance of planting). These contracts can simply be terminated. This suggested exemption is absolutely worthless. We would be better off with no interim ordinance.

The State Water Resources Control Board, in their letter dated August 20, 2013, has expressed their concern about our seriously overdrafted groundwater basin.

We ask that you adopt an interim urgency ordinance that is effective and take the necessary actions to protect public safety, health, and welfare, and water quality.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

PRO Water Equity, Inc. Directors

Sue Luft, President  
Nat Sherrill, Vice President  
Jan Seals, Treasurer  
CC Coats, Secretary  
Dianne Jackson, Director  
Lindsay Pera, Director  
Maria Lorca, Director





**Fw: Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Interim Urgency Ordinance**

**Board of Supervisors** to: BOS\_Legislative Assistants

08/26/2013 12:02 PM

Sent by: **Fran Zohns**

Cc: cr\_board\_clerk Clerk Recorder

----- Forwarded by Fran Zohns/BOS/COSLO on 08/26/2013 12:02 PM -----

From: Mary Mason <mmmason@tcsn.net>  
To: BoardofSuprs@co.slo.ca.us  
Cc: <darnold@co.slo.ca.us><fmecham@co.slo.ca.us><bgibson@co.slo.ca.us><ccampa@co.slo.ca.us>, ahill@co.slo.ca.us  
Date: 08/26/2013 11:43 AM  
Subject: Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Interim Urgency Ordinance

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Dear Supervisors,

I am a resident of rural Paso Robles and I am writing to urge you to vote to **adopt the urgency ordinance for the entire Paso Robles groundwater basin**. We live in a home that was built in 1949 by a pioneering family in Paso Robles. We have watched the entire area around our home be developed with both homes and grape vineyards in the last 17 years. In the last week alone three replacement wells have been drilled in our immediate area; one next door to us.

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Again, please to **vote to adopt the urgency ordinance for the entire Paso Robles groundwater basin**. Your neighbors are depending on you to protect the interests of all the residents of the North County.

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Thank you for your service to our county and it's residents.

Sincerely,

Mary Mason

Paso Robles, CA

Read more here:

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2013/08/26/2650907/urgency-ordinance-for-entire-paso.html#storylink=cpy>

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## Editorial

# Urgency ordinance for entire Paso basin needed

Published: August 26, 2013 Updated 11 hours ago



Dryland farming and ranching have given way to vineyards like this area off of Linne Road just outside Paso Robles.

DAVID MIDDLECAMP — [dmiddlecamp@thetribunenews.com](mailto:dmiddlecamp@thetribunenews.com) [Buy Photo](#)

Supervisors should reject partial groundwater measures

By The Tribune — [letters@thetribunenews.com](mailto:letters@thetribunenews.com)

On Tuesday, the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors has an opportunity to prevent further decline of the Paso Robles groundwater basin by adopting temporary land use restrictions.

The board is looking at two options: Restrict growth throughout much of the basin, or apply the ordinance to a limited area east of Paso Robles, where the biggest aquifer declines have occurred.

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Agenda Item No: 13 • Meeting Date: August 27, 2013  
Presented By: Mary Mason  
Rec'd prior to the meeting & posted on: August 26, 2013

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To allow further unfettered pumping of groundwater is so incredibly risky that we cannot imagine any responsible elected official allowing that to happen.

Indeed, the situation already is so serious that the State Water Resources Control Board [has weighed in](#). It's calling on county supervisors to act to protect the basin, which it describes as "in a state of serious overdraft with water levels continuing to decline."

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Supervisor Debbie Arnold, who also represents North County, wanted to concentrate on helping residents whose wells have dried up, and on increasing the county's allotment of state water.

We agree that it's important to find ways to assist rural residents and small growers. Providing low-interest loans for deeper wells is one such method. But that's a Band-Aid. What will happen when the new wells dry up? Will there be loans on top of loans?

We also believe that seeking out supplemental water — whether it's state water or some other source — is an important component of an overall solution, but that's going to take time. Nipomo, another community dealing with a declining groundwater basin, has been working on finding a new source of water for more than 10 years, and still doesn't have one.

As for those who worry that any restrictions would harm the wine grape industry — and in turn undermine the North County economy — we believe far greater harm could occur down the road if vineyards are allowed to expand by several thousand acres, draining the basin even more.

Keep in mind, too, that the proposed restrictions would not amount to a moratorium. Vineyard expansions and other growth still would be allowed, as long as water used by new development is offset 2-to-1 by water savings elsewhere in the basin.

Also, the land-use restrictions the board will consider Tuesday will be in place temporarily — no longer than two years — while a water management district and other permanent solutions are developed.

As we've said before, the logical solution — the only solution, really — is to give the basin a breather while a more comprehensive water management plan is developed.

We call on the Board of Supervisors to protect one of the county's most critical resources by adopting an urgency ordinance for the entire Paso Robles groundwater basin.

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**To:** BOS\_Legislative Assistants,  
**Cc:** cr\_board\_clerk Clerk Recorder/ClerkRec/COSLO@Wings,  
**Bcc:**  
**Subject:** Fw: Contact Us (response #2413)  
**From:** Board of Supervisors/BOS/COSLO - Monday 08/26/2013 12:07 PM  
**Sent by:** Fran Zohns/BOS/COSLO

----- Forwarded by Fran Zohns/BOS/COSLO on 08/26/2013 12:07 PM -----

**From:** "Internet Webmaster" <webmaster@co.slo.ca.us>  
**To:** "BoardOfSups@co.slo.ca.us" <BoardOfSups@co.slo.ca.us>  
**Date:** 08/26/2013 11:44 AM  
**Subject:** Contact Us (response #2413)

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URL:	<a href="http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/bos/BOSContactUs.htm">http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/bos/BOSContactUs.htm</a>
Submission Time/Date:	8/26/2013 11:43:28 AM

#### Survey Response

Name:	Don Carver
Telephone Number:	
Email address:	<a href="mailto:Dcarver220b@yahoo.com">Dcarver220b@yahoo.com</a>
Comments or questions (8,192 characters max):	I voted for you. Please do the morally gift thing and vote Yes for the emergency water measure. I am a small home owner in Creston who can't, at my age, survive horrible property value loss and have any chance at a good retirement. Please, I beg, vote Yes. Sincerely, Don Carver



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**Cc:** cr\_board\_clerk Clerk Recorder/ClerkRec/COSLO@Wings,  
**Bcc:**  
**Subject:** Fw: Contact Us (response #2414)  
**From:** Board of Supervisors/BOS/COSLO - Monday 08/26/2013 12:07 PM  
**Sent by:** Fran Zohns/BOS/COSLO

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**From:** "Internet Webmaster" <webmaster@co.slo.ca.us>  
**To:** "BoardOfSuprs@co.slo.ca.us" <BoardOfSuprs@co.slo.ca.us>  
**Date:** 08/26/2013 11:58 AM  
**Subject:** Contact Us (response #2414)

### Contact Us (response #2414)

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Submission Time/Date:	8/26/2013 11:57:31 AM

#### Survey Response

Name:	Robert Thomas
Telephone Number:	
Email address:	<a href="mailto:bobsretired@att.net">bobsretired@att.net</a>
Comments or questions (8,192 characters max):	<p>I live east of Paso on Union Rd.near Geneseo Rd. My well is dry as are other residences out here. Within the past 5 years there have been eight new private residence wells drilled that I'm aware of, within a mile of where I live. Most recently, my neighbor had his put in two months ago. Five years ago I had 61' of water above my pump - now only air. During this time hundreds and hundreds of new acres of grapes have been planted. To me and other people in the area, believe it is totally IRRESPONSIBLE for you Supervisors to approve and allow large vineyards to go in or expand at the expense of us residents especially when the entire area has a serious water shortage problem. UNLESS IT'S THE MONEY!!!!!! Speaking of money, I'm retired and living on a fixed income and don't have the \$25-30K for a new well. Now, what am I supposed to do????? Any way you can help me out? Please act responsibly and enact a moratorium on new/expanding vineyard planting and if there is any way to aid those of us who desperately need help now, please do it. Thank you.</p>



**Fw: Paso Robles Groundwater Basin****Board of Supervisors** to: BOS\_Legislative AssistantsSent by: **Fran Zohns**

Cc: cr\_board\_clerk Clerk Recorder

08/26/2013 12:08 PM

----- Forwarded by Fran Zohns/BOS/COSLO on 08/26/2013 12:08 PM -----

From: Charles Kleemann <chazkleemann@gmail.com>  
To: SLO BOS <boardofsups@co.slo.ca.us>  
Date: 08/26/2013 12:04 PM  
Subject: RE: Paso Robles Groundwater Basin

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Honorable Board Members,

We're all connected. I live on the Salinas River just east of Santa Margarita. Wells considered to be "outside" of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin located along the Salinas River have a direct tie to this issue. The Salinas River recharges our wells before recharging basins downstream. The Salinas River is being considered among the possible sources of relief for the Paso Basin but does not contain unlimited ability to supply additional resources as some seem to think. In fact, in dry years such as this (when demand is greatest), the water supply is extremely limited. Before even studying the environmental consequences further depletion of the Salinas introduces, worth considering is that a sufficient and reliable supply simply does not exist there.

I want to reiterate written comments I submitted prior to the August 5 Board meeting supporting your efforts to achieve realistic, workable solutions to a problem that will undoubtedly undermine future livability, and ultimately our local economy, if not addressed promptly and appropriately. The position your board finds itself in is undeniably a difficult one, but to not adopt an Urgency Ordinance at this time would be to ignore the level of responsibility the citizens of San Luis Obispo county have entrusted their supervisors to uphold.

Additionally, I submit that for your board to consider adoption of anything resembling a "private ordinance" designed to benefit just a few could prove less responsible than not acting. I urge your board to consider intended consequences and take responsible action for the common good without further delay, on August 27.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charles Kleemann



**To:** BOS\_Legislative Assistants, cr\_board\_clerk Clerk Recorder/ClerkRec/COSLO@Wings,  
**Cc:**  
**Bcc:**  
**Subject:** Fw: Contact Us (response #2415)  
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**Sent by:** Cytasha Campa/BOS/COSLO

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**Date:** 08/26/2013 02:51 PM  
**Subject:** Contact Us (response #2415)

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Submission Time/Date:	8/26/2013 2:50:33 PM

### Survey Response

Name:	steve crouch
Telephone Number:	
Email address:	<a href="mailto:srcrouch9@gmail.com">srcrouch9@gmail.com</a>
Comments or questions (8,192 characters max):	<p>Greetings Supervisors, I am a life long resident of the north county, a vineyard manager, and a rural resident in the Jardine area.</p> <p>Tomorrow, August 27th, you will face tough decisions concerning our water in the Paso basin. I use the words "our water", as I believe that they morally describe the situation. The water does not belong to those who use the most or that can drill the deepest wells. Oh they can do that and some are doing that right now, but it does not mean it is morally correct. No, not when your neighbors' wells are being sucked dry. I applaud the vineyards and wineries that truly strive to conserve our precious resource of water. They are good farmers and a benefit to our community, but there is a saying floating around the vineyards "too many vineyards, not enough farmers". You will be getting suggestions from the Blue Ribbon Committee. I think that rural residents have not been fairly represented by this committee, and I hope you will consider that fact when you make your decisions. In a nut shell the basin is over planted and the water overdrawn and as community we need solutions quickly. Supervisors, due to your delay in making these decisions, many more wells are being drilled and many more acres are being planted, while many rural resident wells continue to go dry. I urge the board of supervisors to enact an</p>



urgency ordinance that has some teeth so that we all can work towards a solution or at least a compromise we all can live with.  
Thank You for Your time, Steve Crouch



**Fw: Paso Robles Ground Water Basin**

**Board of Supervisors** to: BOS\_Legislative Assistants Only,  
cr\_board\_clerk Clerk Recorder

08/26/2013 03:04 PM

Sent by: **Cytasha Campa**

----- Forwarded by Cytasha Campa/BOS/COSLO on 08/26/2013 03:04 PM -----

From: Vic Roberts <vic@victorhugowinery.com>  
To: Board of Supervisors <BoardofSup@co.slo.ca.us>  
Cc: Debbie Arnold <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>, Frank Mecham <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>, Adam Hill <ahill@co.slo.ca.us>, Bruce Gibson <bgibson@co.slo.ca.us>, Cytasha Campa <ccampa@co.slo.ca.us>  
Date: 08/26/2013 03:03 PM  
Subject: Paso Robles Ground Water Basin  
Sent by: kelevicellars@gmail.com

---

August 26, 2013

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Since our previous letter sent on August 5, 2013 our small, shallow (90 feet deep) domestic well has gone dry and the water in our our larger agricultural irrigation well has dropped to the level of the submersible pump while in operation. The Paso Robles Ground Water situation requires immediate action and resolution that is fair to all parties.

Sincerely,  
Victor & Leslie Roberts

August 5, 2013

SLO County Board of Supervisors

Dear Board of Supervisors,

As owners of a small vineyard and winery located on El Pomar Drive in Templeton we are very concerned about the current water crisis in the Paso Robles water basin. We first moved to San Luis Obispo County in 1982, purchased our current parcel in 1984 and began planting our vineyard in 1985. Like many property owners in the basin we have nearly all of our assets invested into our vineyard and winery. Prior to the beginning of irrigation this year, the standing water of our irrigation well since it was first drilled in 1997 has dropped 30 feet. We have been monitoring the water level in this irrigation well on a weekly

basis and it has dropped an additional 30 feet this season since we began irrigating in late March 2013. As business owners we inherently resist any further regulations and restrictions on our ability to efficiently operate our business. However, the following facts are irrefutable:

- 1) The basin is in serious overdraft, as much as 10,000 acre feet annually.
- 2) Any water district that is formed, regardless of how it is structured, will not be able to provide additional sources of water for the basin for at least 10 years, most likely longer.
- 3) One or two or five “good” rainfall years will not eliminate the overdraft under the current unrestricted pumping demands placed on it by agriculture, municipalities and rural residents.
- 4) Low cost loans enabling property owners to drill deeper wells will not slow the rate of decline of water table rather they will most likely increase rate of decline.
- 5) As we continue to pump from deeper levels the water quality is diminishing as more geo-thermal water is introduced into the water supply with increased levels of salts and boron which is particularly toxic to grapevines.
- 6) Unrestricted water usage as we have had in the past is no longer feasible as the Paso Robles water basin, contrary to popular opinion, does not produce unlimited water and as a finite resource must be properly managed.

Therefore, we must reduce the amount the amount of water being pumped from the basin. As irrigated ag uses the majority of the water from the basin they must be part of the solution to reduce water. Suggestions to accomplish such a reduction could include some or all

of the following:

- 1) Any new permit for a well with a casing of 5 inches or greater include the cost of installing a water meter to be monitored by the property owner.
- 2) Establishing, at least in the beginning, voluntary limits for irrigated ag parcels, of say, one acre foot of water per acre of irrigated crop per year.
- 3) Eliminate approval of new above ground ponds. They are incredibly inefficient as they almost always seep/leak water underneath these ponds in addition to constant evaporation from the surface of the ponds. A significant percentage of groundwater that is pumped into such ponds is lost rather than being utilized for irrigation.
- 4) Municipalities must also have appropriate restrictions and conservation measures as well.

No unlimited new construction should be allowed that can not provide a water source from outside the Paso Robles water basin.

Sincerely,

Victor and Leslie Roberts

Co-owners

Victor Hugo Vineyards and Winery



# COLAB

San Luis Obispo County

PO Box 13601, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

Office:

Email: colabslo@gmail.com

August 24, 2013

Honorable Bruce Gibson, Chairman and  
Members of the Board of Supervisors  
1055 Monterey St.  
San Luis Obispo, California 93401

## **RE: Proposed Paso Robles Water Basin Moratorium**

Dear Chairman Gibson and Supervisors:

The Coalition of Labor, Agriculture, and Business of San Luis Obispo County is an independent San Luis Obispo County based not for profit public policy analysis and advocacy organization. Our members consist of hundreds of farmers, ranchers, professionals, contractors, independent business people, and civic minded citizens. We have studied the proposed urgency ordinances which would essentially prohibit approval of any new water using development in the rural unincorporated area overlying the Paso Robles Water Basin. We ask that you reject the ordinances and, instead, accelerate and prioritize projects which will promote recharge, replenishment, voluntary conservation, and use of water which is currently underused and/or benefitting areas outside of the basin and County.

At a minimum you should reject the ordinances for the reasons outlined below.

**1. The Board Cannot Make the Finding Required by Law:** In order to adopt an urgency zoning ordinance, you, the Board of Supervisors must comply with Section 65858 of Government Code (State Statute). The Section states in part:

*65858. (a) Without following the procedures otherwise required prior to the adoption of a zoning ordinance, the legislative body of a county, city, including a charter city, or city and county, to protect the public safety, health, and welfare, may adopt as an urgency measure an interim ordinance prohibiting any uses that may be in conflict with a contemplated general plan, specific plan, or zoning proposal that the legislative body, planning commission or the planning department is considering or studying or intends to study within a reasonable time. That urgency measure shall require a four-fifths vote of the legislative body for adoption. The interim ordinance shall be of no further force and effect 45 days from its date of adoption. After notice pursuant to Section 65090 and public hearing, the legislative body may extend the interim ordinance for 10*

Agenda Item No: 13 • Meeting Date: August 27, 2013

Presented By: Michael Brown

Rec'd prior to the meeting & posted on: August 26, 2013 • Page 1 of 7



months and 15 days and subsequently extend the interim ordinance for one year. Any extension shall also require a four-fifths vote for adoption. Not more than two extensions may be adopted.

(b) Alternatively, an interim ordinance may be adopted by a four-fifths vote following notice pursuant to Section 65090 and public hearing, in which case it shall be of no further force and effect 45 days from its date of adoption. After notice pursuant to Section 65090 and public hearing, the legislative body may by a four-fifths vote extend the interim ordinance for 22 months and 15 days.

(c) The legislative body shall not adopt or extend any interim ordinance pursuant to this section unless the ordinance contains legislative findings that there is a current and immediate threat to the public health, safety, or welfare, and that the approval of additional subdivisions, use permits, variances, building permits, or any other applicable entitlement for use which is required in order to comply with a zoning ordinance would result in that threat to public health, safety, or welfare.

In order to comply with highlighted section of the statute above, four of you must make findings that support "a current and immediate threat to the public health, safety, or welfare," and that approval of growth promoting activities (see the list in yellow) "would result in that threat to public health, safety or welfare."

Additionally there is substantial case law which requires that four of you must find that the "threat" poses a "clear an imminent danger." Your draft finding actually states that the "clear an imminent danger results from the sudden, unexpected failure of a large number of residential wells."

One problem is that you have no statistical data on how many wells are dry or have "experienced sudden unexpected failure." There is no real data, and the statement in the finding is based on unverified hearsay. In fact Attachment 1F of the agenda item demonstrates that the County's weak and insufficient efforts to ascertain how many wells are dry (whether sudden and unexpected or gradual and cyclical) found only eight residents stating that their well is dry (no verification) and eight stating that their pump had to be lowered (no verification). This is out of thousands and thousands of wells within the basin.

In Section D of the "finding," which exhibits a shocking lack of investigation and analysis, the draft finding states that you have received testimony that "numerous wells have gone dry in the recent past." Actually, you have not conducted verification, and the meaning of "numerous" is subjective. In fact, later in the same draft "finding," you state that "... several homeowners have experienced severe drops in water levels."

You cannot meet the imminent threat to public health and safety standard on the basis of unverified hearsay, eight reported dry wells, and "several" reports of declining wells.

Your draft finding cites various studies, water level measurements, increased agricultural planting, and data from your own resource management system as further justification for the moratorium. The problem is that none of these are relevant to the legal requirement that the findings must prove an imminent threat to public safety, health and welfare. Such data may suggest that measures should be taken to manage the basin, but they do not prove that there is an imminent threat. If there were hundreds of households with toilets that could not be flushed and if sewage were flowing into the creeks and down the roads, there might be an argument, but this is not the case.

Do eight (8) dry wells constitute an emergency that justifies a draconian moratorium?

**2. The Moratorium Will Not Have a Meaningful Impact on the Problem:** Attachment 2C of the staff report, Estimate of Groundwater Demand and Savings, purports to demonstrate the water savings that would occur if the moratorium is adopted. The attachment presents 3 calculation methodologies which are summarized in the chart below:

Method/Scenario	Agricultural Pumping	Rural Residential/Small System
<b>Method 1:</b> Vineyard Acreage, 2011-2013	4,000-5,000 afy	
<b>Method 2:</b> Average Irrigated Water Demand - 15-year Projection (Set 1 Assumptions)	1,066 afy	
<b>Method 3:</b> Average Irrigated Water Demand - 15-year Projection (Set 2 Assumptions)	2,416 afy	
<b>Method 1:</b> Average Rural Residential Water Demand - 1997-2009		185 afy
<b>Method 2:</b> Average Rural Residential Water Demand - 15-year Projection (Set 1 Assumptions)		230 afy
<b>Method 3:</b> Average Rural Residential Water Demand - 15-year Projection (Set 2 Assumptions)		135 afy

Method 1 (detailed on page 7) is a false analysis because it assumes that all projected applicants for vineyards will agree to the 2:1 offset requirement. This is unlikely to impossible because it assumes that these applicants can find other property (and obtain control) on which they would extinguish the water rights on a ratio of 2 acres for every one-acre of new irrigation on their new proposed vineyards. At “best” this methodology would result in the planting of no new vineyards, which would save only 2000-2500 acre feet per year.

Methods 2 and 3 (detailed on page 7) purport to save only 1,066 acre feet per year (AFY) and 2,146 AFY respectively.

Clearly and per the County’s own estimates, the proposed moratorium ordinance results in a statically insignificant savings in relation to total basin inflows and outflows, which approach 100,000 AFY. Note that “savings” in this context is a relative term. Moreover, it is not true savings but projected foregone future usage. The word “savings” is misleading.

#### **Agricultural Pumping**

##### **Method 1: Vineyard Acreage, 2011-2013**

According to the County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, the years 2011-2013 saw an estimated 4,000 acres of new or expanded vineyard development in the groundwater basin. The new water demand on the basin represented by this increase in acreage is estimated to be 1.0 to 1.25 acre feet per acre per year. Assuming that all of the new acreage was previously not irrigated, then the prior two years of vineyard expansion represents a water demand increase of 4,000 – 5,000 acre feet per year. If a 2:1 offset program had been in place during those years, it would have resulted in a decrease in pumping of approximately 4,000 to 5,000 acre feet per year.



### **Method 2: Average Irrigated Agricultural Water Demand Projection over 15 years (Set 1 Assumptions)**

The 2011 Resource Capacity Study used the estimates from Fugro 2010 and Todd 2009 to produce water demand “scenarios” using different water duties and assumptions. The range of future water use below is determined by using the listed assumptions.

- 1) Vineyard use: 1.0-1.25 acre feet per acre per year
- 2) Yearly increase in irrigated agricultural water use of 1.5% per year.

These assumptions result in an average increase of approximately 1,066 acre feet per year. A 1:1 offset ratio would result in no increase in water use due to the increased irrigated acreage. A 2:1 ratio would result in a yearly reduction in pumping of approximately 1,066 acre feet per year.

### **Method 3: Average Irrigated Agricultural Water Demand Projection over 15 years (Set 2 Assumptions)**

- 1) Vineyard use: 1.0-1.25 acre feet per acre per year
- 2) Yearly increase in irrigated agricultural water use of 3.0% per year

These assumptions result in an average increase of approximately 2,416 acre feet per year. A 1:1 offset ratio would result in no increase in water use due to the increased irrigated acreage. A 2:1 ratio would result in a yearly reduction in pumping of approximately 2,416 acre feet/year.

All of the preceding estimates using Methods 1, 2 and 3 are basin-wide estimates (excluding the Atascadero Sub-basin). An ordinance that addresses a smaller area of the basin would result in less water savings.

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**3. The 2:1 Offset Could Be Illegal:** Section 7 subsections 1-3 of the proposed ordinance require the offset in the event that any permits for new wells are issued. To try to get around the problem of applicants not being able to acquire properties on which to extinguish existing water rights, the ordinance provides that it can be accomplished “through participation in an Approved County Water Conservation Program.” This raises serious questions. An applicant wishes to plant 400 acres of grapes. The staff says OK, show us how you are going to save 1000 acre-feet per year, (2.5 AFYx400 =1000). (Note: the 2.5 is 2x1.25, the County estimate for the required water for 1 acre of grapes).

Since the applicant can’t achieve the savings with a low flow toilet and rain barrels, the staff says why don’t you buy the old Arabian Horse farm over in Creston and extinguish the water rights? The farm is listed for \$3.2 million. This sounds like a Knottz doctrine violation, a recent US Supreme Court decision, which forbids local governments from extorting money from applicants for environmental and other policy goals. See the COLAB



August Newsletter Article at:

[http://www.colabslo.org/newsletter/COLAB%20SLO%20Newsletter%20Vol%203%20Issue%206%20\(July%2013\).pdf](http://www.colabslo.org/newsletter/COLAB%20SLO%20Newsletter%20Vol%203%20Issue%206%20(July%2013).pdf)

As the Pacific Legal Foundation, which represented the Knootz family stated “The ruling underscores that homeowners and other property owners who seek permits to make reasonable use of their property cannot be forced to surrender their rights. Regulators can’t hold permit applicants hostage with unjustified demands for land or other concessions...” The oppressive and arbitrary 2:1 ratio is exactly the type of government extortion which the Court has outlawed.

#### 4. The Proposed Ordinance is Discriminatory:

**(a). It Only Impacts Agriculture.** Since the County does not have land use authority to place an emergency land use ordinance on people living in the cities of Atascadero or Paso Robles and has exempted people living inside the unincorporated village urban limit lines (URLs), Templeton, etc., the full force of the ordinance falls on farmers who propose irrigated agriculture. Other sectors of the community escape. The chart below from the Board, attachment 1-l, shows that municipal pumping continues to grow unchecked during the moratorium period.

County of San Luis Obispo  
March 2010 (Project No. 3014.036)



Table 16. Projected Urban Groundwater Pumping and Nacimiento Water Project Deliveries from 2010 to 2025

Water Year	City of Paso Robles			Atascadero MWC			Templeton CSD			San Miguel CSD		
	Groundwater Pumping (acre-feet)	Nacimiento Project Water (acre-feet)	Total Water Demand (acre-feet)	Groundwater Pumping (acre-feet)	Nacimiento Project Water (acre-feet)	Total Water Demand (acre-feet)	Groundwater Pumping (acre-feet)	Nacimiento Project Water (acre-feet)	Total Water Demand (acre-feet)	Groundwater Pumping (acre-feet)	Nacimiento Project Water (acre-feet)	Total Water Demand (acre-feet)
2010	7,292	0	7,292	5,957	2,000	7,957	1,467	230	1,717	0	0	1,717
2011	8,495	1,000	9,495	5,957	2,000	7,957	1,467	230	1,717	0	0	1,717
2012	9,711	2,000	11,711	5,957	2,000	7,957	1,467	230	1,717	0	0	1,717
2013	10,927	3,000	13,927	5,957	2,000	7,957	1,467	230	1,717	0	0	1,717
2014	12,143	4,000	16,143	5,957	2,000	7,957	1,467	230	1,717	0	0	1,717
2015	13,359	5,000	18,359	5,957	2,000	7,957	1,467	230	1,717	0	0	1,717
2016	14,575	6,000	20,575	5,957	2,000	7,957	1,467	230	1,717	0	0	1,717
2017	15,791	7,000	22,791	5,957	2,000	7,957	1,467	230	1,717	0	0	1,717
2018	17,007	8,000	25,007	5,957	2,000	7,957	1,467	230	1,717	0	0	1,717
2019	18,223	9,000	27,223	5,957	2,000	7,957	1,467	230	1,717	0	0	1,717
2020	19,439	10,000	29,439	5,957	2,000	7,957	1,467	230	1,717	0	0	1,717
2021	20,655	11,000	31,655	5,957	2,000	7,957	1,467	230	1,717	0	0	1,717
2022	21,871	12,000	33,871	5,957	2,000	7,957	1,467	230	1,717	0	0	1,717
2023	23,087	13,000	36,087	5,957	2,000	7,957	1,467	230	1,717	0	0	1,717
2024	24,303	14,000	38,303	5,957	2,000	7,957	1,467	230	1,717	0	0	1,717
2025	25,519	15,000	40,519	5,957	2,000	7,957	1,467	230	1,717	0	0	1,717

The chart shows that during the two years of the moratorium, Paso Robles is expected to increase its groundwater pumping by 470 (AFY; Atascadero by 853 AFY, Templeton by 59 AFY, and San Miguel by 59AFY. This is a total of 1,454 AFY. This is more than the projected Method Two “savings” attributed to the moratorium in item 2 (Projected Moratorium Savings) on page 6 above! Has the County even asked the cities and community service districts to support and join its proposed moratorium? Fat chance. It’s really about “smart growth/no growth,” not water.

**(b). Discrimination against Agriculture De Facto Discriminates against AG Workers.** During the August 6, 2013 Public Hearing, C.R. Lara, an expert advocate for working people and the Hispanic Community, asked the Board of Supervisors to consider the impact of the proposed moratorium on the 30,000 people who work in Agriculture and, often relatedly, in the Hospitality Industry.

The Planning Director’s memorandum to the Board (Attachment 2) admits that the Staff, and therefore that you, have no idea what the economic impact of the moratorium will be on property owners or industries. The memo does not even mention the direct and indirect impacts on workers and especially the high concentration of Hispanic workers in agriculture. The Director’s memo states in part:

*Due to the short time period between the board directive and the scheduled hearing date, providing quantified economic impact information was not feasible. In order to produce a quantified economic impact analysis (or analyses), the County would need to implement the following steps, which could require several months to accomplish:*

*1. Identify numerous assumptions to guide the analysis, such as:*

*a. The degree to which the proposed ordinance would preclude certain types of developments and land uses or impose additional costs in order to offset water use over a maximum potential two-year effective period of the ordinance;*

*b. The number of each type of new development or land use which might be expected to occur over the potential two-year period of the ordinance were it not to be enacted, given recent market conditions;*

*c. The type (or types) of economic impact information desired (business output or sales, value added to the economy, wealth such as property value, personal income such as wages, or jobs).*

*2. Then the County could proceed to fund and procure services of a qualified firm to assist in prepare the analysis (or analyses).*

The sentence highlighted in yellow above underscores the kinds of risks involved in the precipitous adoption of the urgency ordinance. Since the Board has been warned, but continues to plow ahead and may willfully ignore this problem, the specter of Federal, State, and local discrimination complaints arises.

**5. The County Intends to Make the Moratorium Permanent:** The wording in Section H of the Findings section the ordinance strongly suggests that the “time out” will be used to develop permanent plans and ordinances:

*Section H states : that in order to address these urgent water needs within the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin, the County is contemplating amendments to its general plan and/or zoning ordinance and intends to study those potential amendments within a reasonable time. In the meantime, the approval of additional subdivisions, land use permits, variances, building permits, construction permits, grading permits, well permits, or any other applicable entitlement for use required to comply with the Land Use Ordinance within the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin would threaten the public health, safety, and welfare by exacerbating the declining water levels of the Basin and contributing the failure of additional residential and agricultural wells. This urgency and interim zoning ordinance will allow County staff time to complete necessary studies and reports for the contemplated amendments to its general plan and/or zoning ordinance while preserving the resources of the Basin.*

The amendments to the general plan and zoning ordinance are already “contemplated.”

Each of you should publicly state your position in this regard and explain, on the record, what the “contemplated amendments” are and how, in your minds, they would differ from the policies in the “interim” moratorium.



CONCLUSION:

THE BOARD SHOULD REJECT THE URGENCY ORDINANCES AND GET ON WITH MANY OF THE GOOD SUGGESTIONS FOR STRENGTHENING THE BASIN AND ASSISTING THOSE OF LIMITED MEANS WHO HAVE DRY WELLS OR WHO ARE AT IMMEDIATE RISK OF HAVING A DRY WELL.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



Michael F Brown, Government Affairs Director

CC: COLAB SLO Board of Directors

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NOTE: By Way of background Michael Brown has 42 years of expert professional local government leadership experience in Texas, Connecticut, Arizona, and California. This experience includes strategic oversight of large scale water and sanitary sewer systems including the development and delivery of projects which involved direct and indirect recharge of aquifers, stream restoration, construction of water treatment plants, aqueducts, the intensive use of recycled water, conservation programs, and the development and upgrade of financial and billing systems related to such projects.



**Fw: Fax Via MB-1350 - 8/26/2013 3:31:48 PM**

**Cytasha Campa** to: BOS\_Legislative Assistants, cr\_board\_clerk  
Clerk Recorder

08/26/2013 03:40 PM

Kindest regards,

# Cytasha Campa

Board Secretary

Board of Supervisors

San Luis Obispo County

805-781-4335

----- Forwarded by Cytasha Campa/BOS/COSLO on 08/26/2013 03:40 PM -----

From: "SLO County Voice Mail" <SLO\_Voice\_Mail@co.slo.ca.us>  
To: bos\_fax@co.slo.ca.us  
Date: 08/26/2013 03:31 PM  
Subject: Fax Via MB-1350 - 8/26/2013 3:31:48 PM

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Thank you. 0380863812-33.pdf

Page 1 of 3

781-1350

Please distribute to all supervisors.

Thank you

TO: Frank Mecham, [fmecham@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:fmecham@co.slo.ca.us); Debbie Arnold, [darnold@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:darnold@co.slo.ca.us); Bruce Gibson, [bgibson@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:bgibson@co.slo.ca.us); Adam Hill, [ahill@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:ahill@co.slo.ca.us);

FROM: Mary Russell, PO Box 82, Shandon CA 93461, [marylrg@alol.com](mailto:marylrg@alol.com)

August 25, 2013

**Re: Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Urgency Ordinance, #27**

**Do not feel forced by public opinion to rush an Urgency Ordinance.** Wells have been going dry for several years, ground water levels have dropped, yes the situation is serious and as such an ordinance should be crafted with much care, it should not be a knee jerk reaction. **Focus resources on area of critical need. The Shandon and San Juan Sub-Areas should not be included in an Urgency Ordinance. The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board includes Shandon, San Juan Creek, Shell Creek, Cholame Creek and Estrella River in The Estrella River Basin. This is distinct from the so-called Paso Robles Groundwater Basin.**

**SHANDON SUB-AREA**

Shandon is the only town in northern San Luis Obispo County to contract for State Water. This town with a population of close to 1,000 is served by CSA16, it currently pumps 100 AF of groundwater per year. The State Water turn out should be completed November 2013. At that time CSA16 will be able to provide most if not all of the water needs. 100 AF of groundwater will not be pumped in Shandon.

I have heard wells are drying up in Shandon, this is not true and should not be repeated as fact without proof. According to San Luis Obispo County well permits (as shown on map in The Tribune, August 25, 2013) four new wells have been drilled in Shandon since 2009. Three of these are new wells, I am not sure about the fourth well. This is not an indication that "wells are going dry". In general the most recent GEI map shows the Shandon Sub-Area groundwater has dropped 0 to 39 feet. Since the County of San Luis Obispo has been monitoring the water depth of one of my irrigation wells over 50 years ago our spring depth has varied from 51 feet to 118 feet, a difference of 67 feet. Since October 6, 1958 there have been ups and downs, but October 4, 2011 (53 years later) the water depth was 14.42 feet lower than the October 1958 measurement.

Also in the Shandon Sub-Area is a blue area indicating a rise in the groundwater level of 1 to 10 feet. At the very western tip of the Shandon Sub-Area is an area showing a drop in Groundwater of up to 70 feet. This is most likely Ground Squirrel Hollow where water has never been plentiful. There are less people making a bigger impact. This area seems more hydrologically connected to the land to its west.

**Overall, the Shandon Sub-Are has been managing its water for years and should not be included in an Urgency Ordinance.**

**SAN JUAN SUB-AREA**

From the hydrographs, water levels in the San Juan Sub-Area have increased from 2011 to 2013 even with the same years having below normal rainfall. There is one area of concern but there are two areas showing 0 to 30 feet increase in groundwater level.

**The San Juan Sub-Area should not be included in an Urgency Ordinance.**

**WORK IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION:**

- **The County of San Luis Obispo should contract for excess capacity water in the State Water Pipeline.** This pipeline is very close to Creston. With additional infrastructure, water could be used to serve the residents of a Community Service Area or be discharged into the Huer Huero to help recharge the basin or for Groundwater Banking.
- **The County of San Luis Obispo and the incorporated cities should put all available Naci Water under contract.** How have the Paso Robles Municipal Wells reacted to the discharge of Naci Water into the Salinas River? When Naci Water is treated and delivered to consumers there will be less pumping of Groundwater in the most depressed area of the North County.
- **Community Service Areas should be formed where possible.** Rural Residents can pool their resources to drill a better well, add storage tanks and delivery pipes. In areas where wells are not deep enough going deeper might not help. If 2 wells are near one another they should be (on the surface) at least as far apart as their combined depth. This means a 500 foot well and a 700 foot well should be 1,200 feet apart. In the past there have been rural areas developed where the lots are so small wells cannot be spaced in this manner. To compound the problem these developments are in areas known for poor quantity and/or quality. When a rural residential area is developed in the future, it needs to have a proven source of water and if the lots are small there should be a Community Service Area for water supply.
- To truly offset water use, all water offsets should be in the same Sub-Area as the project requiring the offsets.



**Board of Supervisors** to: BOS\_Legislative Assistants Only,  
cr\_board\_clerk Clerk Recorder  
Sent by: **Cytasha Campa**

08/26/2013 03:45 PM

----- Forwarded by Cytasha Campa/BOS/COSLO on 08/26/2013 03:45 PM -----

From: Dianne <pasodj@aol.com>  
To: boardofsups@co.slo.ca.us  
Cc: fmecham@co.slo.ca.us, bgibson@co.slo.ca.us, darnold@co.slo.ca.us, ahill@co.slo.ca.us  
Date: 08/26/2013 03:44 PM  
Subject:

---

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I would like to address the question of cost and savings if the interim urgency ordinance is accepted.

The COST to vineyards would be ZERO dollars. They would actually SAVE money by not ripping, not buying rootstock, not laying pipe and not drilling an Ag well and not fencing.

The Water savings would be 2 BILLION gallons. That's 2 BILLION GALLONS OF WATER!

8000 acres x 1000 vines per acre=8,000,000 vines. 8,000,000 vines x 250 gallons of water=2 BILLION GALLONS OF WATER SAVED.

The cost to not accepting the ordinance to the fullest extent is potentially catastrophic. The irreparable damage to the aquifer is eminent if over pumping continues from a groundwater basin already in overdraft. A 2:1 offset will prove to be beneficial.

The interim ordinance must apply to crop production unless plants are in the ground as of August 6. This is an absolute. If the BoS does not agree to this, no interim ordinance should be adopted.

It has been very apparent since August 6, 2013, there was a 'game plan' as the ripping of ground that had previously been grazing land reached a fevered pitch. This disregard for the decline of the basin should not be rewarded. Their actions are incredibly transparent and said behavior is disrespectful to everyone in North County, including those in their own industry.

This is no game. This is about the destruction of a finite resource and the sole source of water for thousands of people.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Jackson



Union Road, Paso Robles



**Fw: BoS hearing August 27, 2013**

**Board of Supervisors** to: BOS\_Legislative Assistants Only,  
cr\_board\_clerk Clerk Recorder

08/26/2013 03:52 PM

Sent by: **Cytasha Campa**

----- Forwarded by Cytasha Campa/BOS/COSLO on 08/26/2013 03:52 PM -----

From: Caroline & Ron Janney <rcjanney@att.net>  
To: fmecham@co.slo.ca.us, darnold@co.slo.ca.us, ahill@co.slo.ca.us, bgibson@co.slo.ca.us,  
BoardofSup@co.slo.ca.us  
Date: 08/26/2013 03:49 PM  
Subject: BoS hearing August 27, 2013

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Dear Mr. Mecham, Ms. Arnold, Mr. Gibson, and Mr. Hall,

We believe the ground water situation in Paso Robles is very critical to the future of North County SLO. It is a wake up call that something needs to be done immediately to prevent any further stress on the aquifer. Therefore there should be no further development in North SLO County that uses additional water until viable solutions can found for the whole community. We depend on all of you to make a decision for the community as a whole and not just special interest groups.

Thank you.

Ron & Caroline Janney

PS please enter this letter into the record for this hearing.



**Fw: GSI Comments on Emergency Order and Findings of Fact - Paso Robles Groundwater Basin**

**Cytasha Campa** to: BOS\_Legislative Assistants Only,  
cr\_board\_clerk Clerk Recorder

08/26/2013 04:34 PM

Kindest regards,

**Cytasha Campa**

Board Secretary

Board of Supervisors

San Luis Obispo County

805-781-4335

----- Forwarded by Cytasha Campa/BOS/COSLO on 08/26/2013 04:34 PM -----

From: Jeff Barry <JBarry@gsiws.com>  
To: "FMecham@co.slo.ca.us" <FMecham@co.slo.ca.us>, "BGibson@co.slo.ca.us" <BGibson@co.slo.ca.us>, "DArnold@co.slo.ca.us" <DArnold@co.slo.ca.us>, "AHill@co.slo.ca.us" <AHill@co.slo.ca.us>, "CCampa@co.slo.ca.us" <CCampa@co.slo.ca.us>  
Cc: "kgriffin@co.slo.ca.us" <kgriffin@co.slo.ca.us>, "choward@co.slo.ca.us" <choward@co.slo.ca.us>, "Chad Rava (ravachad@aol.com)" <ravachad@aol.com>, "Willy Cunha (willycunha@sunviewvineyards.com)" <willycunha@sunviewvineyards.com>, "Andrew Zaninovich (andrewz@sunviewvineyards.com)" <andrewz@sunviewvineyards.com>, "James Ontiveros (james@grapevinecap.com)" <james@grapevinecap.com>, "matt@grapevinecap.com" <matt@grapevinecap.com>, Bryan Bondy <BBondy@gsiws.com>  
Date: 08/26/2013 04:24 PM  
Subject: GSI Comments on Emergency Order and Findings of Fact - Paso Robles Groundwater Basin

---

Honorable Board Members,

Please see the attached comment letter pertaining to the emergency order being considered at your August 27, 2013 meeting. Please include this in the public record.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

**Jeff M. Barry**

**Principal Hydrogeologist**



**Santa Barbara, CA 93101**

jbarry@gsiws.com  
www.gsiwatersolutions.com



GSI comments SLO County emergency ordinance\_8\_26\_13.pdf



August 26, 2013

Sent via email

Board of Supervisors  
San Luis Obispo County  
1055 Monterey Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Subject: Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Urgency Ordinance

Dear Honorable Board,

We are Hydrogeologists working on the groundwater issues for a number of growers in the Shandon area. They have asked us to perform a review of the available data concerning groundwater conditions in the Shandon sub area and the findings of fact presented in Attachment 2A and 2B of the predated August 27, 2013 Memorandum from Kami Griffin of the Department of Planning and Building. In summary, we offer the following general comments; more detailed comments are presented below:

- 1. There are many questions about the findings of fact and technical information provided to date that should be addressed before enacting an emergency order. More time should have been allowed for adequate technical review of the data and conclusions prior to making an emergency order decision.**
- 2. Approved mitigation projects should be added to the list of exemptions in the ordinance. Aquifer recharge projects are one type of mitigation that, in the right circumstance, can provide significant benefits, including additional summer water and sustainable groundwater levels.**
- 3. If there is to be an emergency ordinance, it should be limited to the Estrella and possibly Creston sub areas. The Shandon sub area should be excluded from the emergency ordinance because data that have been collected in private agricultural wells show that water levels have been stable since approximately 2006. Growers in the Shandon area are unaware of any wells going dry in the area.**

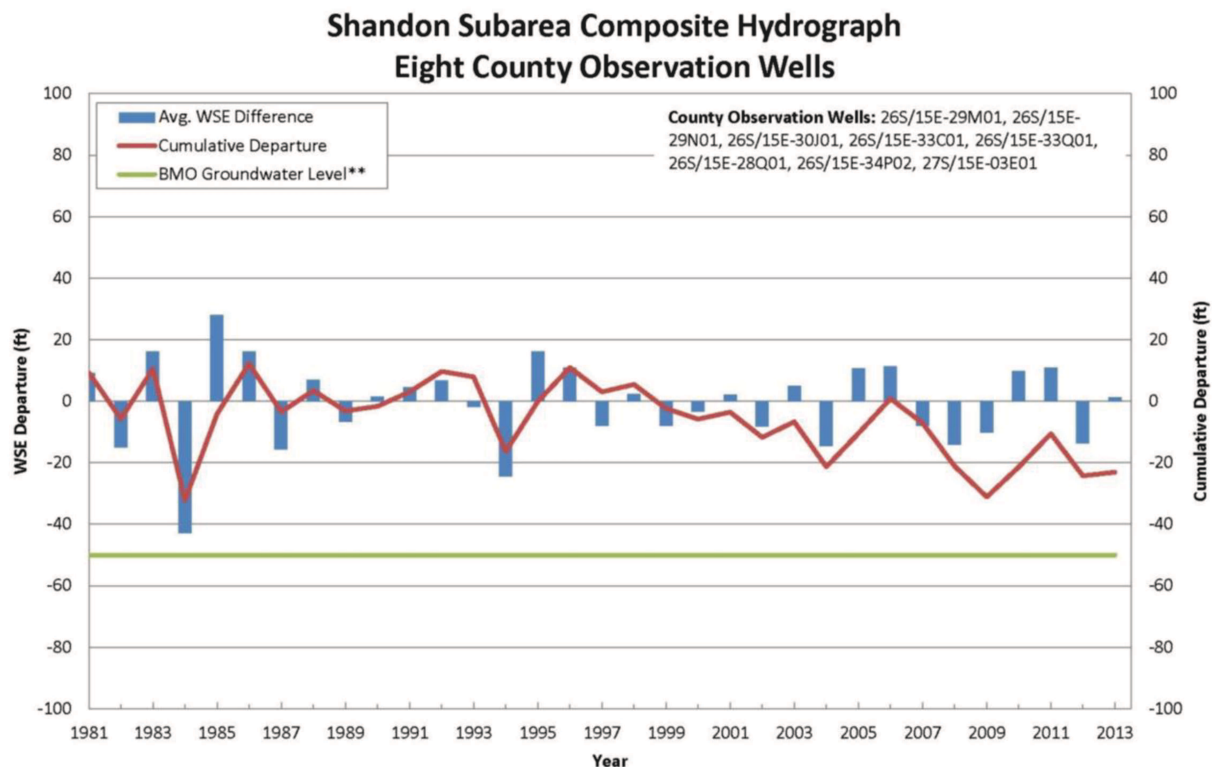
## Comments on Findings of Fact

### *Section 1: Finding of Fact C – Hydrographs*

The County has prepared composite water level hydrographs using a subset of wells making up the County's observation well network and identified water level declines in each of the sub areas. These are referred to as Basin Management Objective (BMO) hydrographs. Unfortunately, water-level data used by the County to construct the composite BMO hydrographs are not available for review. Consequently, GSI constructed hydrographs using data for eight County observation wells provided to us by Shandon area landowners. Groundwater elevations from the following County observation wells were used to develop a composite hydrograph (see below) for the Shandon

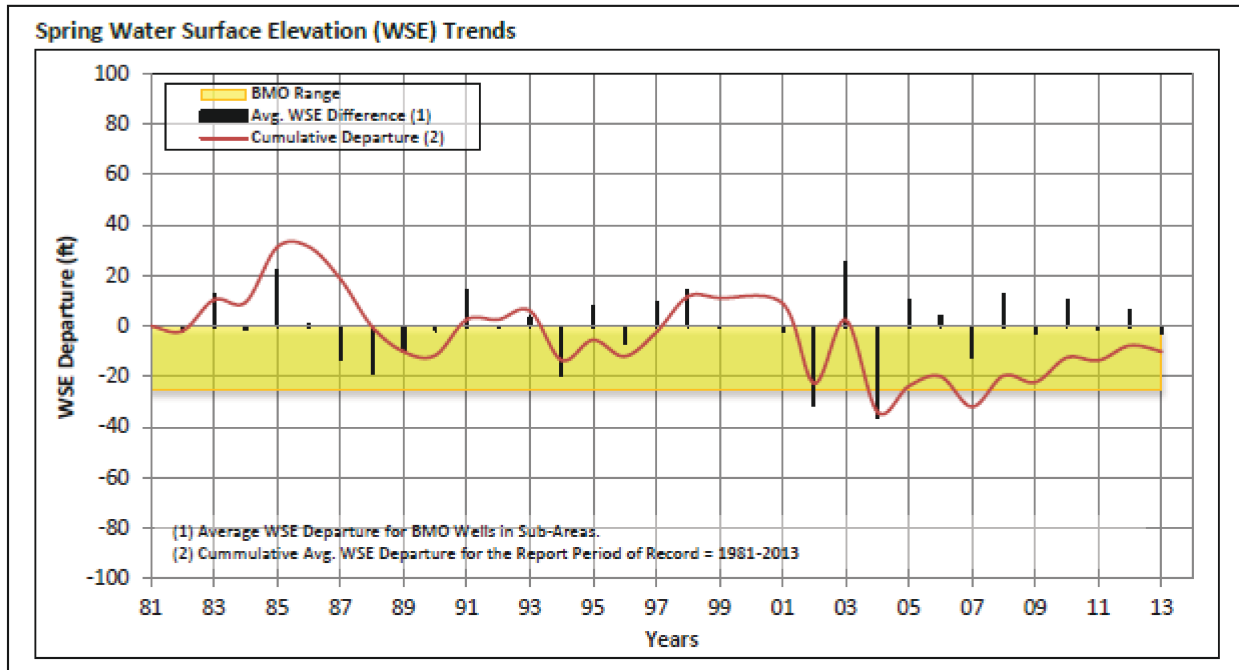
subarea: 26S/15E-29M01, 26S/15E-29N01, 26S/15E-30J01, 26S/15E-33C01, 26S/15E-33Q01, 26S/15E-28Q01, 26S/15E-34P02, 27S/15E-03E01. We used the same method the County uses to develop its BMO hydrographs for each basin. These wells were used to calculate an average spring groundwater surface elevation (WSE) for the subarea for each year during the period from 1980 to 2013. Changes in the average spring WSE were calculated for each year from 1981 to 2013 by subtracting the previous year's average spring WSE from the active year's WSE. This represents the WSE difference shown as the bar chart in the composite hydrograph. For example, the WSE difference for year 1981 was calculated by subtracting the average spring WSE for year 1980 from the after average spring WSE for year 1981, and so on. The cumulative departure (which is shown as the red time-series line on the hydrograph) is the running total of the year-to-year differences.

The composite hydrograph prepared by GSI and presented below for the eight Shandon observation wells used by the County shows that there has been approximately 10 feet of water level decline between 2011 and 2013, not 17 feet reported by the County; this discrepancy should be further evaluated. The composite hydrograph shown below also shows an overall cumulative departure of approximately 23 feet compared to the 63.6 feet of cumulative departure exhibited by the County's August 2013 BMO hydrograph for the Shandon sub area. This is far less than the 50-foot water level decline target that is presented in an Annual Monitoring Report for the Paso Basin Groundwater Advisory Committee (GEI, 2011). Ten feet of water level decline is to be expected during a severe drought, and well within the seasonal fluctuations historically observed for the Shandon sub area (30-50 feet, as reported in Fugro 2002, Final Report, Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Study Phase I).



\*\*Shandon Basin Management Objective Groundwater level is -50 feet (Bookman-Edmonston, 2011, Annual Monitoring Report for Calendar Year 2009, City of Paso Robles. Prepared by Bookman-Edmonston, a Division of GEI Consultants, for the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin – Groundwater Advisory Committee, February 9, 2011).

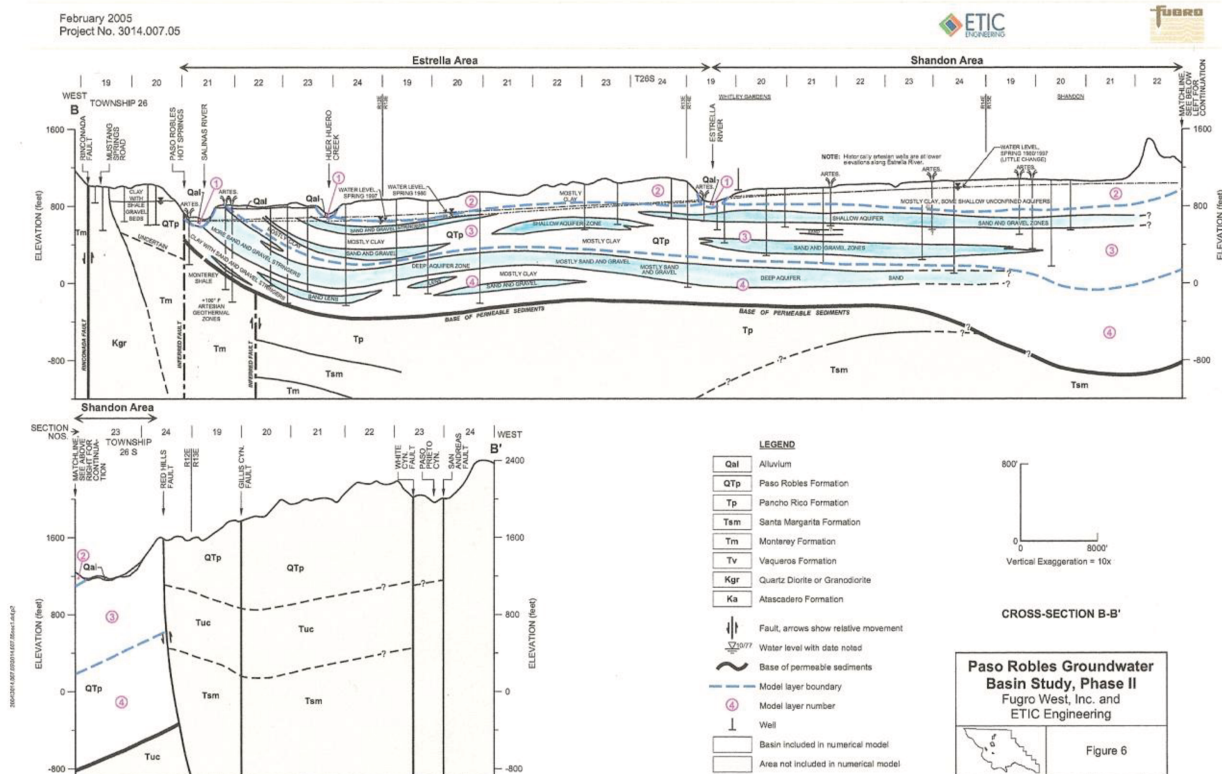
We also reviewed the BMO hydrograph produced by the County for the San Juan sub area (see below). This hydrograph shows that water levels have actually been increasing since 2004. While there may be five feet of decline between 2012 and 2013 as reported by the County, it would seem that the overall upward trend line has been ignored. This apparent discrepancy sheds doubt on whether the San Juan sub area should be included in the emergency ordinance.



### **Section 1: Finding of Fact D – Number of wells going dry**

There is no question that there are a number of domestic wells that have gone dry or are experiencing significant water level decline. This is a significant concern to many that should be addressed quickly. To our knowledge, a total of eight wells have been reported to the County as having gone dry. The location and depth of these wells has not been disclosed and none have been investigated by the County. Thus, it is unclear whether the facts concerning these dry wells support an urgency finding or a decision by the Board concerning what areas an ordinance should apply to. According to the San Luis Obispo County website, there are approximately 8,000 wells that have been drilled in the Paso Robles Basin. Even if 50 wells have gone dry in the basin, this represents on the order of 0.5 percent of the total wells. In our opinion, the details about why these wells have gone dry are important because we suspect that these domestic wells are significantly shallower than other wells that have not had these problems and may not have been constructed to make full beneficial use of the aquifer source (i.e., the wells only partially penetrate the aquifer). As shown in the diagram below, most of these problem wells tap shallower water bearing sand and gravel strata that have limited sources of natural recharge and so during periods of severe drought, one would expect that these wells would have problems. We are unaware of any agricultural supply wells that have gone dry. These are generally deeper and tap water bearing zones that have much larger areas that receive recharge. It makes sense that the County should investigate the problem wells and offer assistance to these well owners, rather than prohibiting all new wells and vineyard expansion. The problem wells do however indicate that there is a potential bigger problem looming and so thoughtful measures to prevent this from occurring (as presented by the Blue Ribbon Committee) should be explored and implemented.





### Section 1: Finding of Fact E – Irrigation ponds

The statement that large irrigation ponds draw large quantities of water from the basin is misleading. This statement is misleading because irrigation ponds only store water for later irrigation use or frost protection. The same amount of water would be used (minus evaporation) if the wells had been used directly for this purpose. In essence, the ponds are used to eliminate the need for larger, less efficient well pumps whose full capacity would not be needed most of the year. The real question is: what is the net amount of water use considering evaporation from the ponds in the winter and the amount of water that infiltrates back to the groundwater system. In our opinion, there is probably a small amount of net water “draw” associated with reservoirs due to evaporation; use of reservoirs actually is beneficial in our opinion because they are filled at a relatively low rate compared to pumping out of the reservoir that is required for frost protection. Use of reservoirs will likely have less interference impacts on neighboring wells than high rate pumping of the aquifer. There is no need to restrict reservoirs because the County has the authority to require reservoir permit applicants to follow the CEQA process to evaluate impacts. The County should develop guidelines that make it clear what the criteria are for assessing and avoiding impacts in accordance with the CEQA process. The Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District is in the process of developing these guidelines for its alternative review program for reservoirs. In summary, a ban on irrigation ponds will result in greater expenses for growers in the form of larger pumps and less efficient pumping, but would result in little water savings.

### Comments on Exemptions

The County should allow for approved mitigation as an exemption from the emergency ordinance. An example of a mitigation project that could provide significant benefits to the basin, but cannot be developed under the ordinance, is managed aquifer recharge. Managed aquifer recharge projects are

designed to store water in the subsurface when it is available and then use wells to recover the water at a later time (during peak use seasons). The source of water for these projects would be high flow water in streams and rivers that would otherwise leave the basin and not ordinarily recharge the basin, unallocated Naciminto water, or State Water Project water. Aquifer recharge is one of the higher ranking alternatives recommended by the Blue Ribbon Committee, but these projects cannot be implemented because recovery wells would not be allowed under the ordinance. These kinds of water banking projects have been studied by the County in the past and deserve additional consideration. Aquifer recharge projects and water banks have been implemented in a number of locations in the west and they have been proven, in the right circumstance, to provide significant benefits, including additional summer water and sustainable groundwater levels. We recommend that you include approved mitigation as an exemption to the emergency ordinance.

## **The Shandon Sub Area Should be Excluded from the Ordinance**

In our professional opinion, the County has not provided sufficient findings of fact to support including the Shandon sub area in the area covered by the emergency ordinance. The emergency ordinance should be focused on the Estrella sub area and portions of the Creston sub area because these are the areas where chronic long-term water level declines have been observed. Limited resources and funds should be focused on the areas with the largest problems. The Shandon sub area should be excluded because private well records in the sub area do not show a long term decline in water levels that would indicate that pumping exceeds recharge on a long term basis, as shown in the figure attached to this document. While declines in water levels did appear to occur in the 1980s, water levels since 2006 have been stable, and in some cases, have come up. This information coupled with the composite hydrograph presented above for Shandon indicates that there is not a significant problem in the Shandon subarea. This conclusion is reinforced by a revised water level decline map that was released by the County on August 23, 2013 (see attached) that shows no significant water level decline in Shandon.

## **Conclusions**

We are certain that the County and its Consultants wish to produce information that is technically correct. There has been a great deal of pressure to produce information quickly in a highly emotionally charged environment. It is our hope that the comments we have presented reinforces the need to allow sufficient time to carefully review data, consider new information provided by others, and discuss information openly so that you feel confident that your decisions are well grounded and that the process is transparent.

Our observations and conclusions about the emergency ordinance and findings of fact are presented below.

- A composite hydrograph prepared for the eight Shandon wells shows that there has been approximately 10 feet of water level decline between 2011 and 2013, not 17 feet reported by the County, and 23 feet of cumulative departure since 1981, not 63.6 feet reported by the County. This is far less than the 50 foot groundwater level decline BMO target that is presented in the Groundwater Management Plan and Annual Monitoring Report.
- A very small percentage of wells in the basin (less than 0.5 percent) have been impacted and it is likely that these wells are shallow and are chronically prone to problems during extended drought periods. Furthermore, because the location and depth of these wells has not been disclosed and none have been investigated by the County, it is unclear whether the

facts concerning these wells support an urgency finding or a decision concerning what areas an ordinance should apply to.

- The statement that large irrigation ponds draw large quantities of water from the basin is misleading because there is a small amount of net water “draw” associated with reservoirs and use of reservoirs will likely have less interference impacts on neighboring wells than high rate pumping that otherwise would be required. Banning irrigation ponds will result in greater expenses for growers in the form of larger pumps and less efficient pumping, but would result in little water savings.
- Approved mitigation should be included as an exemption to the emergency ordinance. An example of a mitigation project that could provide significant benefits to the basin, but cannot be developed under the ordinance, is managed aquifer recharge (including recovery wells). Aquifer recharge is one of the higher ranking alternatives recommended by the Blue Ribbon Committee, but these projects cannot be implemented because recovery wells would not be allowed under the ordinance, and
- The Shandon sub area should be excluded from the emergency ordinance because private well records in the sub area do not show a long term decline in water levels that would indicate that pumping exceeds recharge on a long term basis.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please feel free to contact Jeff Barry if you have any questions at (805)-895-3956.

Sincerely,  
GSI Water Solutions, Inc.



Jeff Barry  
Principal Hydrogeologist

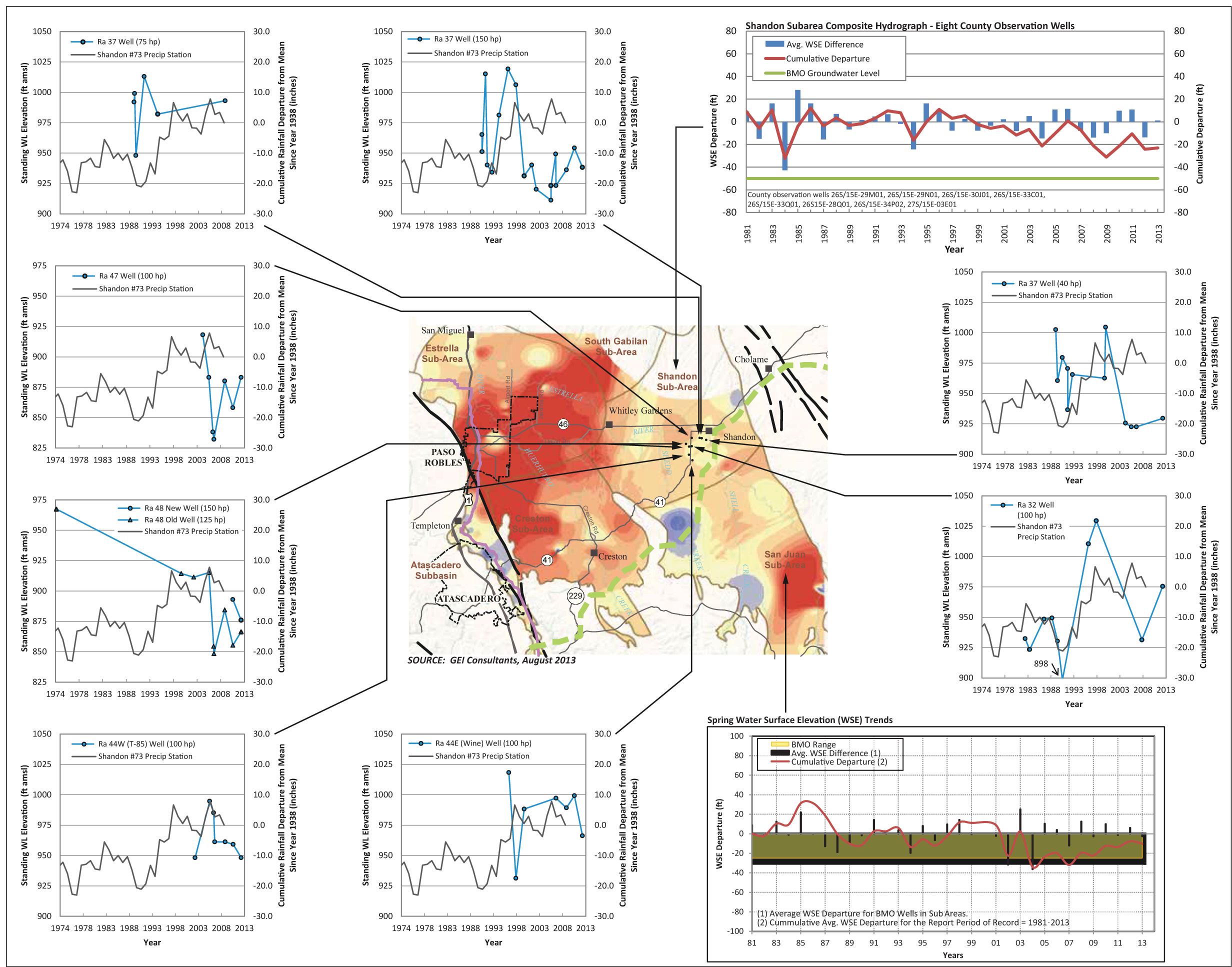


Bryan Bondy, PG, CHG  
Senior Hydrogeologist

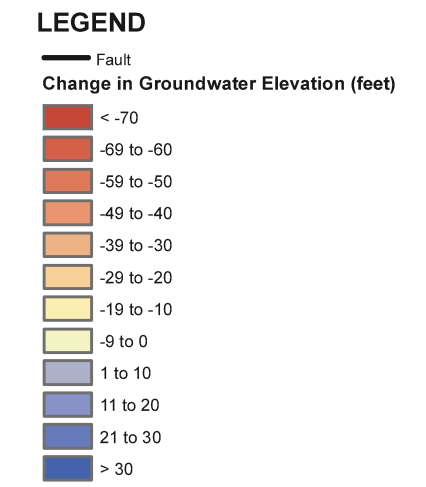
Attachments

Copy: Chad Rava/Rava Vineyards  
Willy Cunha/Sunview Vineyards  
Courtney Howard/SLO County  
Kami Griffin/SLO County





**FIGURE X**  
**Groundwater Level Hydrographs**  
**for the Shandon Sub-Area**  
Paso Robles Groundwater Basin  
Paso Robles, California

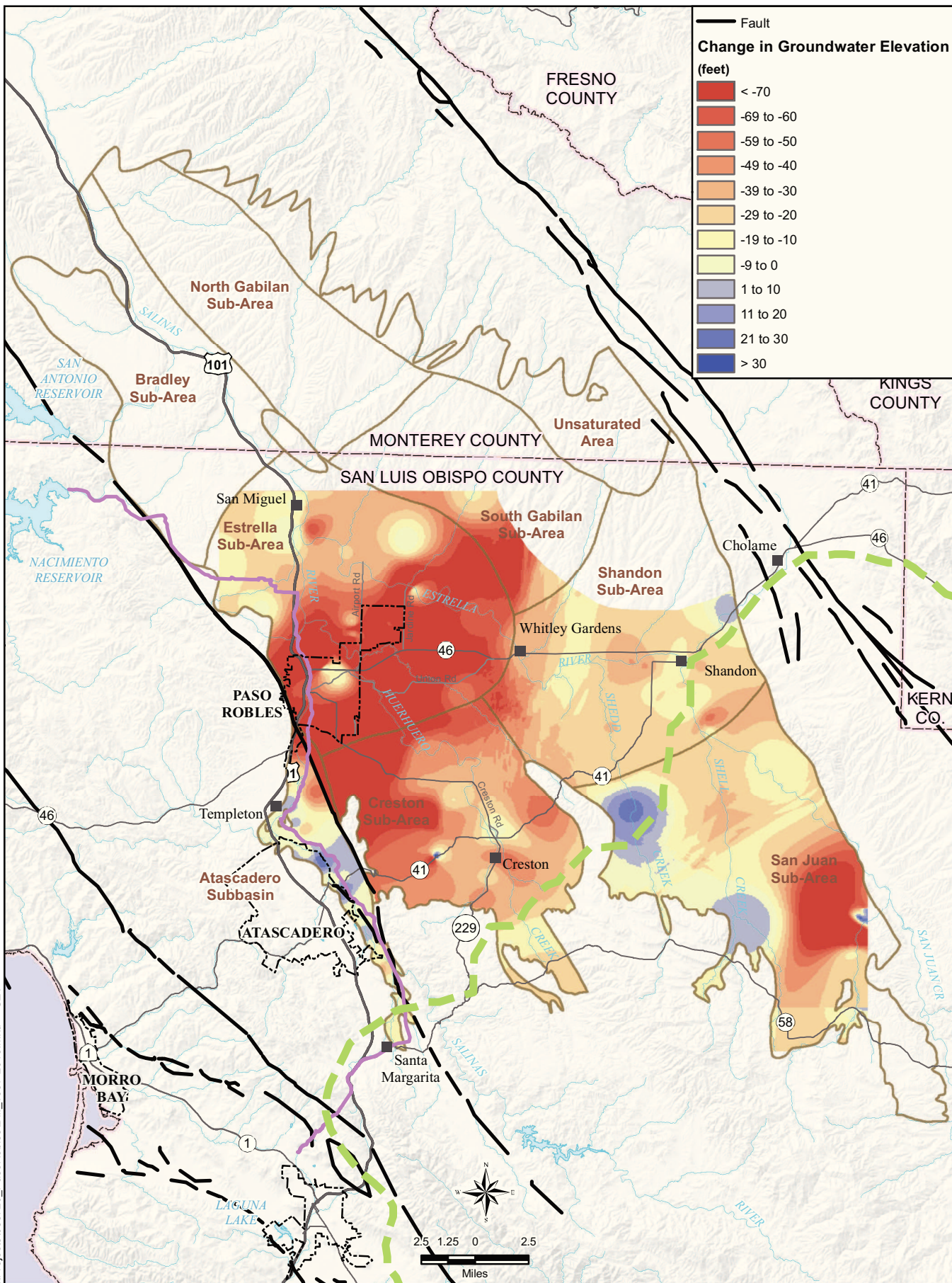


- NOTES**
- Water level data and well logs were provided for use by private land/well owners.
  - Water level data are from manual measurements collected during well efficiency tests.
  - Groundwater elevations calculated using land surface elevation data obtained from the USGS, 10-m DEM.
  - Wells are completed in the shallow aquifer subdivision of the Paso Robles Formation.
  - Precipitation data are from SLO County; Shandon #73.





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**Fw: Comments regarding Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Urgency Ordinance Hearing 8-27-13**

**Board of Supervisors** to: BOS\_Legislative Assistants,  
cr\_board\_clerk Clerk Recorder  
Sent by: **Cytasha Campa**

08/26/2013 04:34 PM

----- Forwarded by Cytasha Campa/BOS/COSLO on 08/26/2013 04:34 PM -----

From: "Willy Cunha" <willycunha@sunviewvineyards.com>  
To: <BoardofSups@co.slo.ca.us>  
Cc: <planning@co.slo.ca.us>  
Date: 08/26/2013 04:33 PM  
Subject: Comments regarding Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Urgency Ordinance Hearing 8-27-13

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Please include the two attached files as part of the record for the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Urgency Ordinance Hearing of August 27, 2013.

Thank you very much for listening to all of us!!



Letter to SLO County Board of Supervisors 8-26-13 regarding Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Urgency Ordinance Hearing



Shandon private hydrographs.pdf

August 26, 2013

San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors

Dear Supervisors Mecham, Arnold, Hill and Gibson,

I have been farming in Shandon since 1983.

The aquifer under the Shandon area has a long history of reliable agricultural and residential use.

1. It has good annual recharge from winter rains.
2. It operates separately from the portion of the basin to the west that is suffering significant declines and slow rebounds to water levels. Just as the Atascadero sub basin has its own unique source of annual recharge, the Shandon aquifer or sub basin has its own source of annual recharge. Rains that fall on the east side of the La Panza Range and Black Mountain come down Camatta Creek, Shell Creek and San Juan Creek. The water moves through their sub-flows to annually recharge the Shandon sub-basin.
3. The nature of the subsurface layers between the Shandon sub basin and the areas of the basin due west of it restricts the lateral movement of water from under Shandon to the west.
4. Well test records from the County website along with our own well tests show that Shandon does not have the significant decline seen elsewhere.
5. There is no basis in fact to broadly apply the same corrective measures to the Shandon area that may be applicable to other areas.
6. The attached report documents water levels in the Shandon Sub-Basin.

This is an extremely important set of decisions the Board is contemplating. The effects of these decisions will be far reaching and need to be understood. To bring the whole community of water users to a broad understanding and to move us to cooperative action it would be very helpful if the County were to make available the data they are using for their presentations and modeling with expert Hydrogeologists representing stakeholders. Anonymity of well owners can and should be maintained. A broader understanding and acceptance of how the aquifer operates will be critical as this process moves forward.

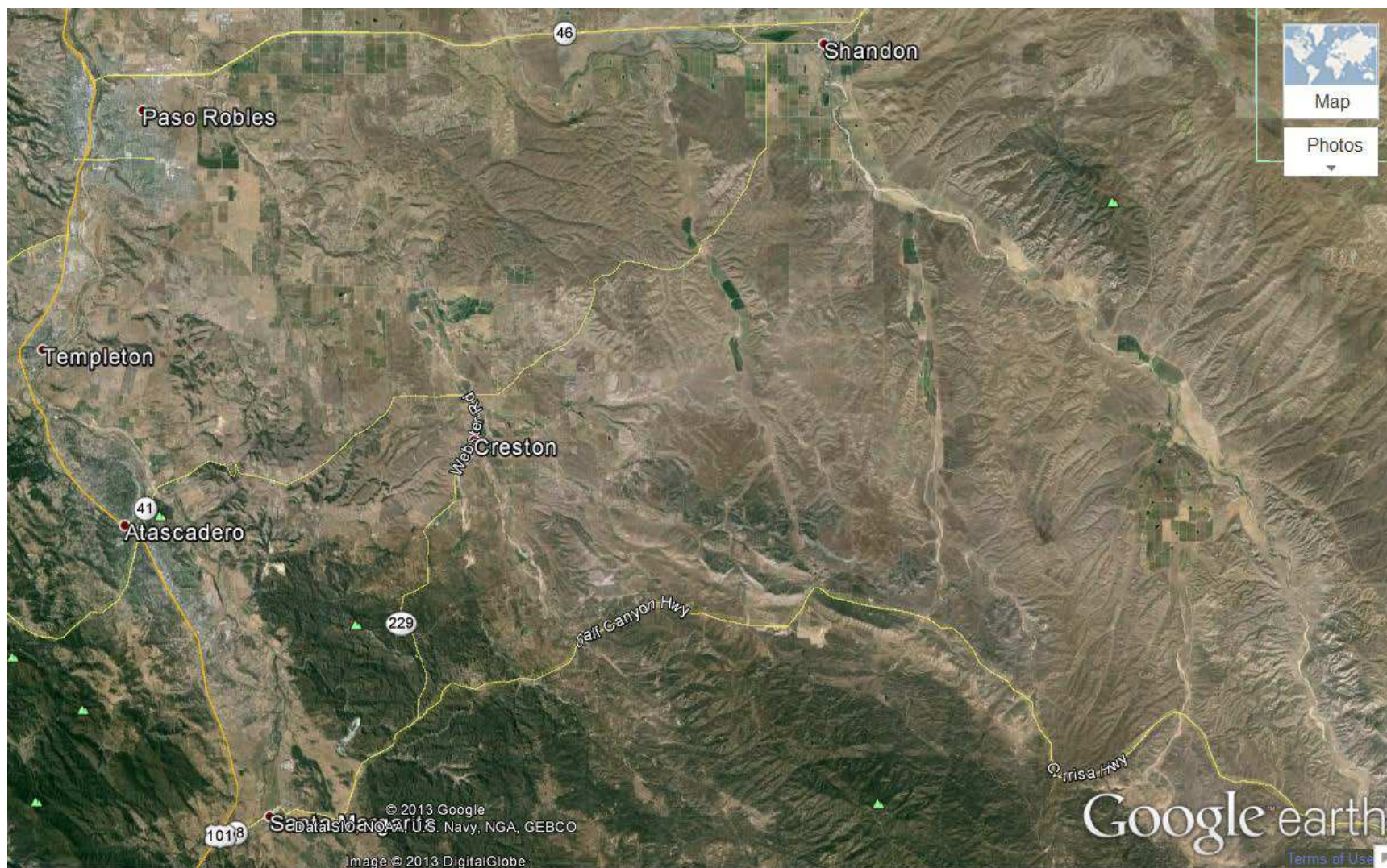
I support responsible sustainable use of our water resource ensuring the agricultural economic engine that is so important to our local economy to continue running while maintaining access to a reliable supply of water for all.

Sincerely,



Willy Cunha  
Sunview Shandon

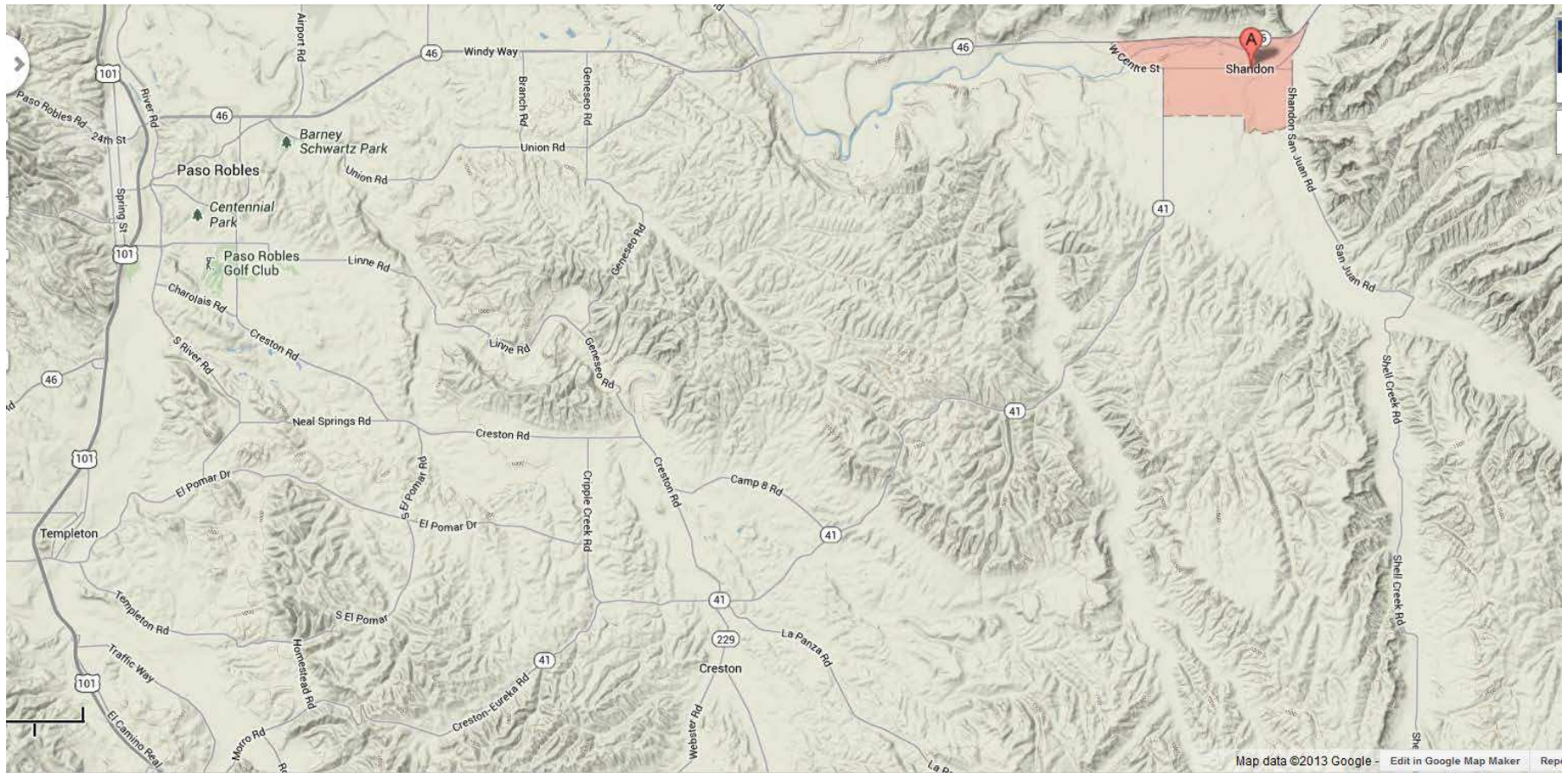




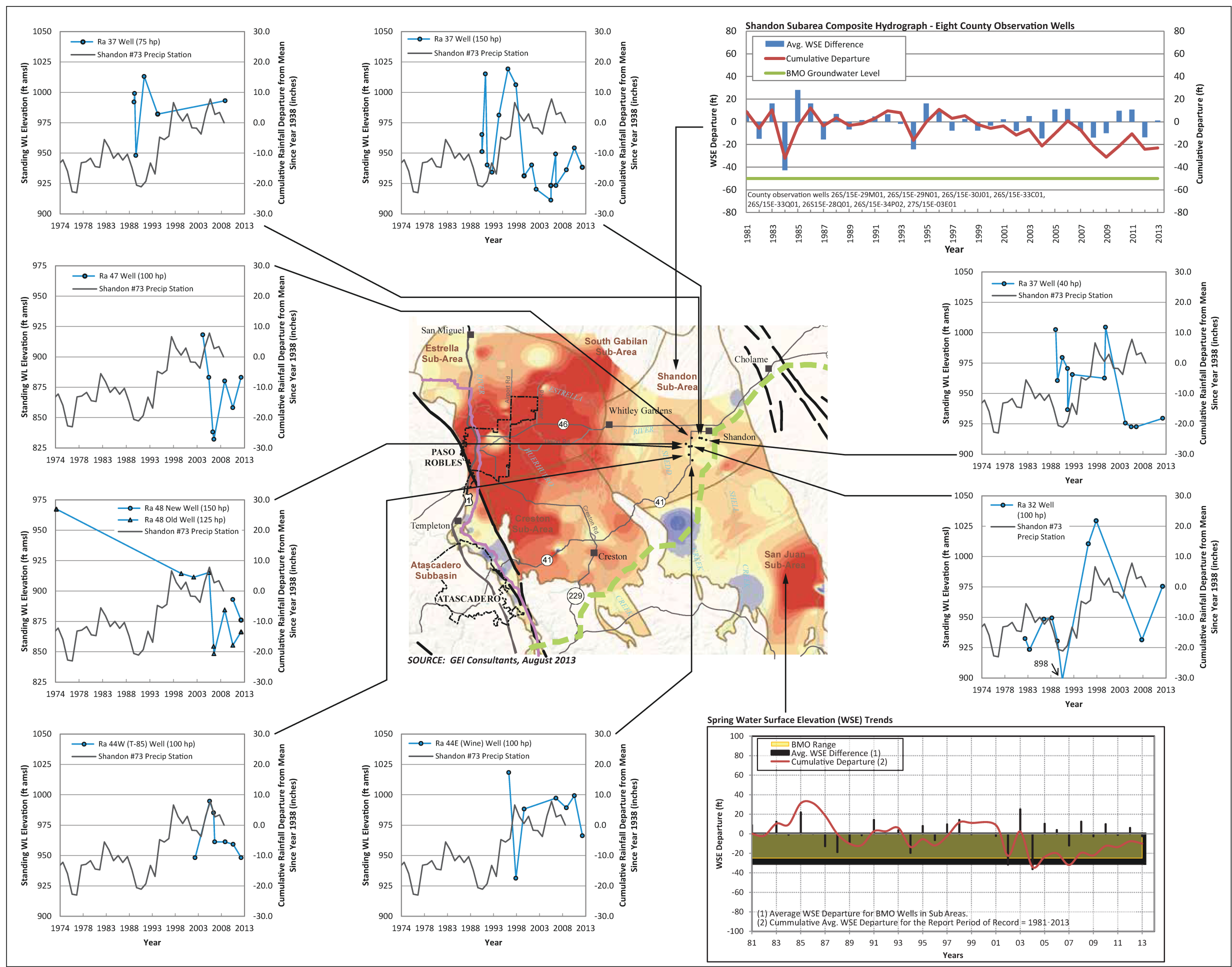
Paso Robles Groundwater Basin 2013 Google Earth Image: Note the 3 canyons, from left to right Shed Canyon, Camatta, San Juan and Shell Creeks, feeding the Shandon area. They are the 3 green Canyons South of Shandon with green patches of alfalfa. These match the blue areas on the "Change in Groundwater Elevation Map". These streams drain the east side of The La Panza Range and Black Mountain. Note the folded and highly eroded ground between Shandon and the "red zone". As these hills were pushed up by tectonic forces the once relatively flat layers in the basin were bent up, compressed and distorted making the good water bearing layers in Shandon discontinuous from those between Paso Robles and Creston.

Agenda Item No: 13 • Meeting Date: August 27, 2013  
 Presented By: Willy Cunha  
 Rec'd prior to the meeting & posted on: August 26, 2013

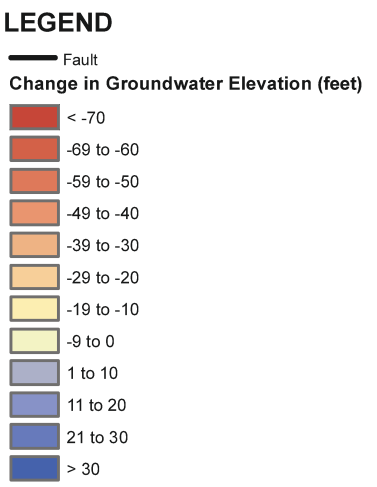




Google Maps "Terrain" view 2013 showing the uplifted hills between Shandon and Creston-Paso Robles.



**FIGURE X**  
**Groundwater Level Hydrographs**  
**for the Shandon Sub-Area**  
Paso Robles Groundwater Basin  
Paso Robles, California



**NOTES**

- Water level data and well logs were provided for use by private land/well owners.
- Water level data are from manual measurements collected during well efficiency tests.
- Groundwater elevations calculated using land surface elevation data obtained from the USGS, 10-m DEM.
- Wells are completed in the shallow aquifer subdivision of the Paso Robles Formation.
- Precipitation data are from SLO County; Shandon #73.







**Fw: BoS hearing, August 27, 2013, Item 13**

**Board of Supervisors** to: BOS\_Legislative Assistants Only,  
cr\_board\_clerk Clerk Recorder

08/26/2013 04:35 PM

Sent by: **Cytasha Campa**

----- Forwarded by Cytasha Campa/BOS/COSLO on 08/26/2013 04:35 PM -----

From: Jeanne Aird <jeanneaird@yahoo.com>  
To: "BoardofSups@co.slo.ca.us" <BoardofSups@co.slo.ca.us>  
Cc: "darnold@co.slo.ca.us" <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>, "fmecham@co.slo.ca.us" <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>, "ahill@co.slo.ca.us" <ahill@co.slo.ca.us>, "bgibson@co.slo.ca.us" <bgibson@co.slo.ca.us>, "ccampa@co.slo.ca.us" <ccampa@co.slo.ca.us>  
Date: 08/26/2013 04:23 PM  
Subject: BoS hearing, August 27, 2013, Item 13

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Dear Supervisors,

Please enter this letter into the record for the August 27th hearing.

Dear Supervisors,

I attended and spoke at the August 6th Board of Supervisors meeting regarding instituting emergency ordinances to address the water basin crisis in the county. I am not able to attend the meeting on August 27th, but do want my concerns to be heard loud and clear.

We are very concerned about the decreasing water basin in Paso Robles. We live on three acres of land, just south of San Miguel. We have a well and septic tank.

Within the last year, a new RV park opened on the corner of highway 101 and Wellsona Rd. This park has laundry facilities, a swimming pool and facilities for flushing RV waste systems. My neighbors and I wrote many letters and a few were able to show up for the hearing in SLO to protest in person. It was to no avail. The county boards of supervisors were seeing dollar signs in their eyes instead of sustainability for those of us who already are landowners in the area, trying to hang on to our resources.

The water crisis is even more dire now than it was then. We do need a long term plan, but right now we need emergency measures taken before more rural residents have their wells go dry.

The California State Water Code 106. States: "It is hereby declared to be the established policy of this State that the use of water for domestic purposes is the highest use of water and that the next highest use is for irrigation."

My husband and I will soon both be retired. It is scary going into retirement with the thought that we might need to come up with \$25,000 or more to drill deeper to find water because others have used more than their share. We work hard to conserve water. We direct all of our washing machine waste water to water our back yard. We limit our shower times and have efficient drip systems for our garden areas.

A few wineries are working hard to conserve water, but not enough and we have over 200 vineyards, more than 36,000 acres in the area, with more being planted as I write this. All of them need to use mandated water conservation technology. Their water use needs to be metered. They need to be the ones who are buying water and redrilling, not the average rural homeowner with a private well for personal use.

I appreciate that the board of supervisors is starting to have this long overdue conversation. It's not going to be a problem that is easy to solve. Fair-share regulations need to be put into place immediately before it's too late, if it's not already. How can we and other rural homeowners ever hope sell our homes with this water crisis. Who in their right mind would want to buy property with a well that could go dry any time.

Please take this issue very seriously and we will all be watching how the Board of Supervisors works to solve this problem in a fair manner.

Jeanne and Dennis Aird

Paso Robles, CA 93446